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Arts Guide



Courbet's "La Truite," right, is in an exhibition in Paris. Horse- and deer-shaped gold ornamentation for the headdress of a Scythian prince is on view in Munich. A bronze crane from the Qing dynasty is in a London show about China's first emperor.

Kunsthaus Zurich (above); German Archaeological Institute (below)



An 18th-century horse in Imari porcelain, above, is in a display of Japanese ceramics in Groningen, the Netherlands. A bull in gouache by Oscar Dominguez is part of a show of works on paper in Madrid.



Groninger Museum (top); Colección Abello (above)

BRITAIN | LONDON

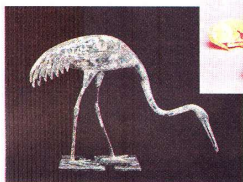
BRITISH MUSEUM

To April 6: "The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army." Focusing on one of the main archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, the exhibition brings together 12 of the famous terra-cotta warriors from Xi'an, China, as well as figures of acrobats, musicians and bureaucrats excavated since 1998. They were buried alongside China's first emperor, Qin Shihuangdi, who unified the country in 221 B.C. (The emperor's tomb mound itself remains sealed and to be explored). The show examines the emperor's life and achievements, as well as his quest for eternal life. The artworks will travel to Atlanta in November.
www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

FRANCE | PARIS

GALERIES NATIONALES DU GRAND PALAIS

To Jan. 28: "Courbet." A large monographic exhibition that brings together 120 paintings and 30 works on paper to the French artist. Departing from classical subjects explored by other artists, Gustave Courbet (1819-77) drew inspiration from his native Franche-Comté region in eastern France. After staging himself in his early emotion-filled self-portraits, he created realistic group scenes featuring ordinary people ("A Burial at Ornans, 1849-50"), landscapes and seascapes. Courbet also explored the female nude; the famous "Origin of the World, 1866," a close-up of a woman's sex, is on loan from the Musée d'Orsay. Probably commissioned by a Turkish diplomat for his collection of erotic paintings, it is paired here with the painting by André Masson that hid it from view when it hung in the home of the French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan. The paintings and photographs will travel to the Metropolitan Museum, New York.
www.rmn.fr/gustavecourbet



Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses of Qin Shihuang, Lintong, China



A brass rooster is in a Paris show devoted to the royal arts of Benin. A watercolor of a lion by Dürer is in a Madrid exhibition that juxtaposes his works with Cranach's.



collectors and museums. While displaying beautiful figurative brass and ivory sculptures, the exhibition documents the highly hierarchical court, its rituals and its relationship with Europe starting in the 15th century.
www.quairanly.fr

GERMANY | MUNICH

KUNSTHALLE DER HYPO-KULTUR-STIFTUNG

To Jan. 20: "Im Zeichen des Goldenen Greifen: Königsgräber der Skythen." The equestrian Scythians were one of the nomadic peoples who dominated the European steppes from the 8th to the 3rd centuries B.C. Their kings and rulers were buried in kurgans, or burial mounds, in great ceremony. By bringing together artifacts excavated in these tombs — clothing, arms, cups, horse gear and textiles — the show documents their history and culture. Information on modern excavation techniques and anthropological research help make up the image of this bygone civilization, its environment and its relationship with other peoples.
www.hypo-kunsthalle.de

iht.com/arts

Expanded arts guide and images from selected exhibitions.

MUSÉE DU QUAI BRANLY

To Jan. 6: "Bénin, Cinq Siècles d'Art Royal." This exhibition will not fail to captivate viewers who may have little knowledge of African art. It assembles about 280 artworks — brass figures of humans and animals, commemorative heads of kings and queens, masks and brass plates representing court members, soldiers or Portuguese sailors or traders — made by the artisans at the court of Benin (an influential kingdom located in present day southern Nigeria) from the 13th to the very last years of the 19th century when the kingdom collapsed. More than 2,000 pieces were then brought back to Europe by British troops and auctioned off to private

Objects for the Japanese, Asian and European markets figure in the display.
www.groeningermuseum.nl

SINGAPORE

NATIONAL MUSEUM

To March 16: "Greek Masterpieces From the Louvre." While the Louvre is refurbishing its Greek and Hellenistic rooms, it has agreed to lend about 130 statues, vases, terra-cotta figurines, as well as gold and silver items to Asian museums. Documenting the story of Athens in the 5th and 4th centuries B.C., the show expands to portray the way of life in ancient Greece, particularly regarding worship, sports, theater and public meetings. Seen in Beijing earlier this year, the exhibition will travel to Macao.
www.nationalmuseum.sg

SPAIN | MADRID

MUSEO THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA

To Jan. 6: "Durero y Cranach: Arte y Humanismo en la Alemania del Renacimiento." In collaboration with the Fundación Caja Madrid, the exhibition

offers a survey of German Renaissance art between the late 15th and the mid-16th century. The Thyssen displays the "World of Artists," a section focusing on aesthetics, while the Fundación offers "World in Conflict," documenting the role of images associated with religion, politics and war. More than 200 paintings, drawings, prints and miscellaneous artifacts have been assembled, with particular emphasis on the works of Dürer (1471-1528) and Cranach the Elder (1472-1553) and, to a lesser extent, on their contemporaries, Hans Baldung Grien and Albrecht Altdorfer.
www.fundacioncajamadrid.es

Also to Feb. 17: "Maestros Modernos del Dibujo." Used as preparatory work for centuries, drawing has now become an independent medium. The selection of 70 works on paper, ranging from a small portrait of his wife by Goya to a head by Lucian Freud, documents the variety of styles and techniques used by the Impressionists, the Cubists, the Expressionists and by such sculptors as Brancusi, Moore and Giacometti.
www.museothyssen.org

SWITZERLAND | LUGANO

MUSEO CANTONALE D'ARTE

To Jan. 6: "Alexj Jawlensky: Il Significato della Linea." Having first studied under Ilya Repin, Jawlensky (1864-1941) forged a long-lasting friendship with Kandinsky in Germany and developed his own Expressionist style (bright colors and strong black lines). Although the Russian artist used drawings as a field of linguistic experimentation throughout his creative career, these works on paper have mostly ranked second to his paintings. They are juxtaposed here with some of his easel works and with drawings by his contemporaries.
www.museo-cantonale-arte.ch

TAIWAN | TAIPEI

NATIONAL PALACE MUSEUM

To Feb. 24: "Splendor of the Baroque and Beyond: Great Habsburg Collectors — Masterpieces From the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna." From the 16th to the end of the 18th century, the Habsburg emperors patronized artists and continually expanded their collections. These artworks form the core of the Viennese museum built in the 19th century. The loan consists of 67 paintings, arranged chronologically. The works by Italian, German, Dutch and Flemish artists deal with such subjects as religion, mythology, history and portraiture. Among the artists represented are Rembrandt, Titian, Bordone, Dürer and Cranach.
www.npm.gov.tw

UNITED STATES | NEW YORK

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

To Jan. 6: "The Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art." Each room of the exhibition is devoted to one of the donors of these masterpieces, an arrangement that prevents the simultaneous viewing of the five Vermeers or the 20 Rembrandts. However, the viewer will fully enjoy these 220 portraits, genre paintings, still lifes, seascapes and biblical subjects by Franz Hals, Jan Steen and other 17th-century Dutch painters.
www.metmuseum.org
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